

URBAN DISTRICT OF
BRIERFIELD.



Annual Report

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1908,

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. S. WILSON, M.B., C.M.),

AND

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

(B. HALSTEAD),

Member of the Incorporated Association of Municipal and County Engineers,
and Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute





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BRIERFIELD.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1908.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Fifth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitation of the District.

The population of the Township at the last census in 1901 was 7,288. I estimate it to be in the middle of the year 8,400, and have calculated my statistics on that basis.

From Table A you will be able to compare the birth-rates death-rates and zymotic death-rates for the last five years.

TABLE A.

	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904
Birth-rate	22·85	21·83	21·79	22·46	22·8
Death-rate	14·2	12·5	13·07	13·5	15·7
Zymotic death-rate.....	1·6	0·6	2·8	1·16	2·5
Infant death-rate.....	1·6	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·0
Respiratory death-rate		4·7	4·2	4·0	5·13

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 192 births—99 males and 93 females. Of these 6 were illegitimate. This gives a birth-rate of 22·85, compared to 21·83 for last year. This is a rather low birth-rate though somewhat higher than it has been for the last three years.

DEATHS.

During the year there were 120 deaths—54 males and 66 females.

This is equivalent to an annual death-rate of 14·2. There were 43 deaths among children under five years of age, equal to 35·8 per cent of the total deaths- The death-rate though not high is rather higher than it has been for the last three years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The rate of deaths under one year to 1,000 births is 151. They were distributed in the following ages.

11 deaths under one month.

7 over one month and under six months.

11 over six months and under one year.

From Table B you will see the cause of death in each case :—

TABLE B.

	Bronchitis	Diarrhoea	Premature Birth	Wasting Disease	Tuberculous Dis.	Pneumonia
Under 1 month	1	1	5	4	..	..
1 month and under 6 month .....	..	6	..	..	1	..
6 month and under 12 month	1	5	..	..	..	5

From Table C, taken from Dr. Sergeant's Report, you will see the comparative death-rate of children under one year in Brierfield, in the Urban and Rural Districts of Lancashire, and England and Wales.

TABLE C.

	1908	1907	1906	1905
Brierfield.....	151	151	164	156
Rural Districts { Lancs. }	—	96	109	101
Urban Districts { Lancs. }	—	129	143	137
England and Wales	—	118	133	128

TABLE D.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.						
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Measles	2		2				
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1		1				
Croup	1		1				
Enteric Fever	1					1	
Epidemic influenza	1					1	
Diarrhoea	10	7	1			1	1
Enteritis	6	5				1	
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	13	1	2		4	5	1
Other tuberculous diseases	5		2	3			
Cancer, malignant disease	5					4	1
Bronchitis	16	2	2			6	6
Pneumonia	7	5		1		1	
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver }	3					2	1
Premature Birth	5	5					
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2				1	1	
Heart diseases	12			1	1	4	6
Accidents	2		2				
Cerebral Haemorrhage	8					4	4
Chorea	1			1			
Nephritis	2				1	1	
Diabetes Mellitus	1				1		
Infantile Complaints	4	4					
Rheumatic Fever	2			1			1
All other Causes	10		1			3	6
All causes	120	29	14	7	8	35	27

TABLE E.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS.

Deaths in Public Institutions beyond District.											Nett Deaths all ages.	
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in District.						Deaths in Public Institutions beyond District.	Nett Deaths all ages.	
		No.	Rate.	Under 1 year.		At all ages.		No.	Rate.		No.	Rate.
1900	7200	214	29.72	22	102.71	84	11.66	..	..	34	11.66
1901	7300	206	28.20	40	154.17	116	15.89	..	..	116	15.89
1902	7400	182	24.73	25	137.10	98	13.24	..	..	98	13.24
1903	7500	202	26.93	32	158.41	106	14.13	..	..	106	14.13
1904	7600	174	22.89	26	149.42	120	15.78	..	..	120	15.78
1905	7700	173	22.46	27	156.06	102	13.24	2	..	104	13.50	
1906	7800	170	21.79	28	164.70	102	13.07	..	..	102	13.07
1907	8200	179	21.83	27	151.00	91	11.09	12	..	103	12.56	
Averages for years 1900-1907		7587	24.81	28.37	151.69	102.37	13.51	..	..	104	13.73
1908	8400	192	22.85	29	151.04	113	13.45	7	..	120	14.28	

You will again note there is a gradual rise in the Birth-rate for the last three years though it is still rather low. The increase of population in the main is due to an influx from the neighbouring towns and villages.

The infantile mortality is practically the same as last year and is too high, being 151 to 100 births. In the rural districts of Lancashire it is generally about 100; for the last three years the actual numbers were 96, 109, and 101 per thousand births.

There are twelve deaths from Epidemic Diarrhoea. This disease as you know occurs during the hot summer months and is caused mainly by the house fly, if mothers would take the simple precaution of covering the vessel containing the child's milk and of boiling the milk before giving it to the child we would have fewer deaths.

Dr. Sergeant's pamphlet shewing how a child should be fed and clothed during the first twelve months of life may be had at the Sanitary Office by application but not more than a dozen have been asked for this year.

Some time ago our Sanitary Authority adopted by resolution the Compulsory Notification of Births Act but the operation of the Act was deferred as the Local Government Board usually insisted on a nurse being appointed to follow up the cases.

In this district we have not work for a nurse but I have little doubt an arrangement could be come to with the Burnley Nursing Association whereby we might have the services of a district nurse when required. I feel sure this would in some measure reduce the waste of infantile life in industrial Centres.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 15 cases of Infectious disease notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—9 cases notified during the year with no deaths.

Enteric Fever.—1 case which proved fatal.

Erysipelas.—4 cases with no deaths.

Diphtheria.—1 case which died.

From Table F you will be able to compare the number of infectious diseases notified during the last five years :—

TABLE F.

	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904
Scarlet Fever....	9	16	14	86	8
Diphtheria.....	1	2	16	8	63
Typhoid.....	1	1	3	0	0
Erysipelas.....	4	5	6	8	14
Puerperal Fever.	0	0	0	0	1
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 102	<hr/> 86

Six cases were removed to the Sanatorium and two died there.

You will note we have been very free from all forms of infectious disease, and the few cases we have had have been of a mild character.

VACCINATION.

From Table G you will see the number of children vaccinated successfully and the number of exemptions granted.

TABLE G.

		Births.		Public Vaccinations.		Private Vaccinations.		Exemption Certificates.
1908	....	192	....	59	....	6	....	121
1907	....	179	....	39	....	11	....	76
1906	....	170	....	69	....	12	....	81

The area of the district is 787 acres ; the subsoil clayey and damp, but from its sloping situation there is a direct fall of at least 500 feet from Marsden Heights to Pendle Water. It lends itself very readily to drainage, and neutralises to some extent the nature of the soil. The cultivated land in the vicinity is all pasturage and meadow, the produce from it being milk, butter, and eggs.

The water supply has been in the main plentiful and of good quality. There are still a few complaints of insufficient pressure at the bottom of Halifax Road and in some of the lower parts of the town especially below the canal. The main which is an old one is too small, a larger main requires to be laid.

Those residing in Marsden Heights have to depend on spring Water. It is good water and plentiful. Nelson have carried a new main along Higher Reedley and a few of the Cottages about Marsden Cross receive water from it.

Factories and workshops have been visited regularly. The lighting, heating, and ventilation have been satisfactory. The closets and latrines have been inspected and the various defects found, remedied.

From Table H you will see the inspections made in connection with factories and workshops.

TABLE H.

Premises (1)		Number of Inspections. (2)		Number of Written Notices (3)
FACTORIES .. ..	..	45	..	2
WORKSHOPS .. ..	..	19	..	—
		—	..	—
Total ..		64		2

The Dairies and Cow-sheds have been inspected. We are still waiting the sanction of the Local Government Board to adopt their regulations.

The conditions of the roads in the township are good. Castle Street, Back William Street, Livingstone Street and Walter Street have been paved this year. The end of Stanley Street and Back Clegg Street require attention.

During the year I have, in conjunction with Mr. Halstead, inspected the slaughter-houses and made a special report to you on their condition. The defects mentioned are being attended to. The Bakehouses have been visited. They are in good condition.

I have also sent monthly returns of the infectious diseases and the mortality of the district to the Lancashire County Council, the Joint Hospital Board, and quarterly reports to your Council.

During the year I have made systematic inspections of the district.

I am indebted to the sanitary staff for so willingly supplying me with the required statistics.

Appended is Mr. Halstead's report of the work done in the Sanitary and Surveyor's Department.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. WILSON.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following is a summary of the nuisances dealt with during the year :—

Defective and untrapped drains	21
Defective Waste Water Closets.....	65
Defective Ashpits.....	3
Defective Urinals.....	3
New W.C's provided	6
Miscellaneous	14
	<hr/>
	112

64 notices have been given relating to the above, nearly all of which have been complied with.

The remainder are receiving attention.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—These have been inspected from time to time and various defects found in regard to the Sanitary arrangements. Notices have been served in several instances and the matters have since been remedied. At the Brierfield Mills a further number of tank closets are being abolished and clean water closets with automatic flushing cisterns provided. When these are completed the nuisance caused by the emptying of these large tanks will be greatly diminished.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—At present we have only 5 registered slaughterhouses within the district one having been discontinued during the year. A Special Report was submitted to the last meeting of the committee upon these and the defects mentioned therein are now being dealt with.

CANAL BOATS.—Six inspections were made during the year and they were found to be clean and in good order.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—These have been visited and in several instances the occupier's attention called to the necessity of whitewashing the premises and these have since received attention.

BAKEHOUSES.—All the Bakehouses have been inspected and it is gratifying to report that the occupiers show a commendable desire to comply with the regulations.

SCAVENGING.—During the year, 686 loads of refuse from Brierfield have been destroyed at the Nelson Destructor Works.

In addition to the above the following loads of refuse have been carted to the various tips mentioned below :—

1040 loads of ashes to the tip near the Sewage Works.

235 loads of excreta from pail and tank closets on to farm land.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR.

Area of District, 787 acres.

Estimated population, 8400.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my eighth annual report of the work of the Surveyor's Department for the year 1908.

Plans relating to the following buildings have been approved during the year :—

Houses	55
Estate Plans	1
	<hr/>
Total.....	56

Alterations to existing buildings—7.

PRIVATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—The following works have been carried out during the year :—

- 532 Lineal yards of Curbing.
- 1082 Superficial yards of Flagging.
- 2935 Superficial yards of Paving.
- 246 Lineal yards of 9 in. Sewer.
- 74 Lineal yards of 12 in. Sewer.
- 28 Gullies and connections to Sewer.
- 6 Manholes.
- 5 Lampholes.

the total cost amounting to £1733 3 8.

There are now 63 front streets and 43 back streets paved and sewered.

The total length of front streets paved amounts to 6 miles and 167 yards, and back streets 1 mile 3 furlongs and 54 yards.

There are 8 miles 1 furlong and 166 yards of sewers, 151 manholes, 79 lampholes, and 792 gullies within the district.

SEWAGE WORKS.—During the year the ashes in the first contact beds have been removed and washed. and then, along with clean ashes replaced in the beds. It was found that only about 50 per cent of the ashes were left after washing, and therefore 1392 loads of ashes were required in order to refill the beds.

The total cost including loan of screening apparatus, ashes, timber, labour, etc., amount to £700.

The capacity of the beds has now considerably increased, in fact they will hold 100 per cent more than previously. In addition to this the final effluent is much more satisfactory. Only one report of the Inspector to the Ribble Joint Committee has been issued since the work was completed and we occupied a very high place in the list of results.

Before this work was undertaken we had the greatest difficulty in dealing with the volume of sewage, but the capacity of the beds has increased to such an extent that they will be sufficient for the needs of Brierfield for many years to come.

203 loads of detritis from gullies and 109 loads of road scrapings have been tipped at the Sewage works; 555 loads of road sweepings carted on to farm lands, and 997 loads of snow to the various tips.

ELECTRICITY.—The following table shews the consumption of Electricity for the last five years :—

	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Ordinary consumers	9372	11391	12190	11704	14458
Motors	1534	1726	2064	2206	4357
Radiator	779	991	689	—	—
Street Lighting	5000	5000	5000	4720	217
Totals	16685	19108	19943	18630	19032

STREET LIGHTING.—We have now 223 lamps against 216 last year. The number of mantles used per lamp was 7 against 5 in 1907. This is mostly accounted for by the vibration in the lamps upon the Main Road. The average number of mantles per lamp along the Main Road is 9·5.

We have tried 6 anti-vibrators without any improvement. At present we have a few Bray's burners on and these are doing very well, but we shall be better able to tell whether they are an improvement or not with a more extended trial.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

B. HALSTEAD.

